

October 17, 2019



## An Open Letter to the Fairmont State University Board of Governors

Members of the Fairmont State University Board of Governors,

It is our understanding after a goal-reaching and record setting academic year at Fairmont State University, the Board of Governors may be taking the temperature of interested parties around the University regarding the accomplishments and new direction the Administration is taking. This new direction, a disruption of the status quo of the last fifteen years, was precipitated by the Board and taken into consideration when a new President was selected a year and a half ago. We, the undersigned, appreciate the vision of the Board and are encouraged by the determination and tenacity of the Administration to develop that vision. We support and endorse the University, its goals, and its benchmark accomplishments to date; we, too, ask the Board to reaffirm its support and endorsement of the Administration, led by President Mirta M. Martin.

Beginning in January 2018, the University has been in a constant state of positive change fueled by the enthusiasm and leadership of the new Administration. The foremost example can be seen in the University's finances. In just twelve months, the University has accomplished a \$4.774 million net change from a \$2.86 million deficit to a \$1.914 million positive. For an institution that has a direct economic impact to the state of West Virginia of \$50.87 million and an indirect impact of \$82.9 million—the most of any regional institution in the state—it was vitally important the University chart a path to financial stability. Accomplishing this so rapidly and dramatically is only a testament to the determination for success at Fairmont State University. While so many universities around the state are facing hardships and grapple with the real threat of having to close their doors, Fairmont State is charging forward stronger than ever.

This past regular legislative session, Fairmont State University stared down several legislative initiatives that had the potential to harm the financial viability of the University. In a time when higher education is all too often the first sent to the state funding chopping block, Fairmont State stood tall in the face of adversity. The Falcon Family used its relationships in Charleston to secure a funding *increase* of \$3 million—the first time in eight years the University didn't receive a funding cut.

Like so many other areas, Fairmont State is soaring onward and upward regarding enrollment and retention. The past academic year saw an increase in enrollment for the first time since 2010. Our Falcon Family welcomed the largest incoming class—855—the University has ever seen, a 10% increase of incoming students. Over the previous seven years, an annual decline plagued the enrollment numbers at Fairmont State, totaling an 18.9% decrease, per enrollment data from West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. This past fall's transformational freshman class translated into a 2% overall population growth. Additionally, residence halls on campus were at full capacity, and Fairmont State saw an increased retention rate for first-time

freshman, transfer students, and readmitted students. The 2018-19 year was the first Fairmont State retention rate increase since 2015.

While Fairmont State continues to focus on issues pertinent to financial stability and student success, the Board, administration, faculty, and staff are also focused on continuing to provide a quality, affordable education. Fairmont State is focused on keeping West Virginia's talent in West Virginia. The University has met with local, regional and state-wide business leaders to partner in finding solutions to growing economic problems in West Virginia. It is committed to growing industry in West Virginia by educating the next generation of West Virginia's workforce. With this commitment in mind, Fairmont State is determined to maintain and improve the academic quality of existing programs whilst creating new programs to accommodate the arising needs in our state's students.

Fairmont State has recently added or is in the process of adding programs in the following areas of study:

- Masters of Science in Healthcare Management
- Bachelors of Science in Strategic Leadership
- Masters of Arts in National Security and Intelligence
- Masters of Science in Engineering and Management
- Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership
- Masters of Business Administration Area of Emphasis in Cybersecurity Management

Alongside these accomplishments, all since January 2018, Falcons continue to return immense resources and provided care and comfort to many in the community. In last year's United Way Campaign in Marion County, Fairmont State raised a record \$31,525—the largest contribution from the University in its 39 years with United Way. And, during the federal government shutdown this past winter, Fairmont State and the Falcon Family opened its home to over 500 federal employees for entertainment and free family meals over two days.

It is the Student Government Association's primary purpose to give the perspective and position of the student body. As a result of the aforementioned achievements, countless personal anecdotes, and student-centered success at this University with this administration, it is with great confidence that we, along with the undersigned members of the West Virginia Legislature, faculty and staff of the University, and members of the community, endorse the new direction set forth by the Board and the actions and accomplishments undertaken on this campus under the leadership of President Mirta Martin and her Administration.

Thank you.

Signed and Submitted:

Roman W. Prezioso, Jr.	Minority Leader, West Virginia Senate
Michael Angelucci	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Linda Longstreth	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Margaret Staggers	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Ryan Weld	Majority Whip, West Virginia Senate
Cody Thompson	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Danielle Walker	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Lisa Zukoff	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Cindy Lavender-Bowe	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Sammy Brown	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Doug Skaff	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Amanda Estep-Burton	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Evan Hansen	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Caleb Hanna	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Mike Caputo	Minority Whip, West Virginia House of Delegates
Phil Diserio	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Ben Queen	Member, West Virginia House of Delegates
Timothy Miley	Minority Leader, West Virginia House of Delegates
Patricia Rucker	Eduction Chair, West Virginia Senate
William Harrison	Faculty, College of Liberal Arts
Joel T. Dugan	Chair, Architecture, Art, and Design
Jessica Sharps	Staff, University Relations & Marketing
George Herrick	Manager, Strategic Operations
	Chair, Staff Council

Macgorine Cassell	Faculty, School of Business
Joseph W. Kremer	Former Faculty Senate President, Chair, Accounting, Economics and Finance
Amy Godfrey	Faculty, School of Business
Jason Frazer	Instructor, School of Business
Martha Amos	Executive Secretary, School of Business
Trudy Harton	Program Assistant 1
Raymond Alvarez	Faculty, Health Care Management Program Coordinator
Marcus Fisher	Faculty, School of Business
Christopher Kast	Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Clifton Jackson	Faculty, School of Business
Marcus Fisher	Faculty, School of Business
Gary Edwards	Faculty, School of Business
John McLaughlin	Faculty, Liberal Arts
Harry Baxter	Faculty, Chemistry & ACF
Tony Morris	Faculty, Biology
Erica Harvey	Faculty, Chemistry
Deb Hemler	Interim Chair, Natural Sciences
Galen Hansen	Faculty, Physics
Matt Scanlon	Faculty, Chemistry
James Weekley	Instructor, Chemistry
Troy Snyder	Faculty, Fine Arts
Elizabeth Wotring-Nelson	Faculty, Fine Arts
Dan Gurash	Faculty, College of Liberal Arts

Tyler Keller	President, Student Government Association
Dillon Bradley	Former President, Student Government Association
Rebecca Luketic	Treasurer, Student Government Association
Raychel Fitzwater	Secretary, Student Government Association
Maiya Bennett	Member, Board of Governors
Alyssa Welling	Former Member, Board of Governors
Jordan Higginbotham	Student
Gabrielle Hoke	Student
Ryan Minshall	President, All Greek Council , SGA Member
Justin Mullens	Student – SGA Member
Abigail Lemine	Student
Courtney Martin	Student
Taylor Griffith	Student – SGA Member
Terrin Taylor	Student
Chris Roush	Student
Luke Schaub	Student
Desiree Hart	Student – SGA Member
Adreanne Langley	Student
Angelica Starcovic	President, Honors Program
Matt Stanton	President, Phi Sigma Phi
Lauren Heflin	Student
Zac Fancher	Resident Assistant
Mark Woods	Student Athlete
Mike Porter	Student Athlete
Chrinovic Mukulu	Student Athlete

Jordan Schaeffer	Student Athlete
Alec Solane	Student Athlete
Seth Friel	Student Athlete
Braxton Baker	Student Athlete
Thomas Zraden	Student Athlete
Nick Giuliano	Student Athlete
Javin Jones	Student Athlete
Juice Edwards	Student Athlete
Shane Featt	Student Athlete
Michael Nuzum Jr.	Student Athlete
Connor Neal	Student Athlete
Collen Brookens	Student Athlete
Andre Hall	Student Athlete
Shawn Harris	Student Athlete
Donte Cloude Jr.	Student Athlete
Tyree Randolph	Student Athlete
Jeff Iweh	Student Athlete
Sam Levy	Student Athlete
Joseph Kundrat	Student Athlete
Timothy Smith	Student Athlete
Colin Harvath	Student Athlete
Dashawn Denny	Student Athlete
Obadiah Asare	Student Athlete
Isiah Smith	Student Athlete
Ryan Wilson	Student Athlete

Samuel Tucker	Student Athlete
Robert Shanabarger	Student Athlete
Chinedu Oparaku	Student Athlete
Glenwood Williams	Student Athlete
Chris White	Student Athlete
Christopher Fox	Student Athlete
Randy Robinson	Student Athlete
Logan Cole	Student Athlete
Dalton Dempsey	Student Athlete
Magnus Sheets	Student Athlete
Javon Mayes	Student Athlete
Joshua Nevers	Student Athlete
Malik Larwence	Student Athlete
Antoine Walker	Student Athlete
Luis Gooden	Student Athlete
Tyreke McKeithan	Student Athlete
Adonus Taylor	Student Athlete
Rakeem Darden	Student Athlete
Jerry McField	Student Athlete
Landon Yearhe	Student Athlete
Khalik Hamlin	Student Athlete
Carlos Jackson	Student Athlete
Matt McDonald	Student Athlete
Jonathan Lopez	Student Athlete
Braylen Waldo	Student Athlete

Lonnell McGuire	Student Athlete
Takwan Crews-Naylor	Student Athlete
Ronnell Dennis Jr.	Student Athlete
Desoto McKenzie	Student Athlete
Keyshawn Hailey	Student Athlete
Arthur Mouafo	Student Athlete
Jaylon Doss	Student Athlete
John Nesbit	Student Athlete
Ahmed Ali	Student Athlete
Trey Henry	Student Athlete
Nicholas Schroader	Student Athlete
Hunter Haddix	Student Athlete
Jarrod Jones	Student Athlete
William Brown	Student Athlete
Isaac Miller	Student Athlete
Anthony Gavin	Student Athlete
Brycen Virgioi	Student Athlete
Alex Banko	Student Athlete
Jacob Whitmore	Student Athlete
Tyler Hill	Student Athlete
Christpher Green	Student Athlete
Josh Stegmaier	Student Athlete
Vince Sabatino	Student Athlete
Elmo Trickett	Student Athlete
Nicholas Mann	Student Athlete

Zachary Musgrove	Student Athlete
Nick Langley	Student Athlete
Alex Seymour	Student Athlete
Tyler Haskins	Student Athlete
Connor Cramer	Student Athlete
Rafael Ramos	Student Athlete
Taylor Tennant	Student Athlete
Robert Raul	Student Athlete
Noah Armstrong	Student Athlete
Hunter Coe	Student Athlete
Ben Taylor	Student Athlete
Trad Sokol	Assistant Baseball Coach
Frankie Wilson	Assistant Baseball Coach
Alex Pane	Student Athlete
Cole Collins	Student Athlete
Lauren Riffle	Student Athlete
Mikayla Moore	Student Athlete
Jade Turner	Student Athlete
Megan Brown	Student Athlete
Kaylee Andersen	Student Athlete
Jenny Stubbs	Student Athlete
Hedid Hormell	Student Athlete
Courtney Wareester	Student Athlete
Andie Baughman	Student Athlete
Abbey Ammons	Student Athlete

Meadow Anderson	Student Athlete
Darby Petersen	Student Athlete
Katlynn Foltz	Student Athlete
Kadi Cosgrove	Student Athlete
Jessica Weaver	Student Athlete
Alyssa Disko	Student Athlete
Harley Mcdannel	Student Athlete
Natalia Wundover	Student Athlete
Rebecca Sullivan	Student
Davianne Croasmun	Student Athlete
Ashlyn Spears	Student Athlete
Brianna Mckenzie	Student Athlete
Caitlynn Kassay	Student Athlete
Carlie Schlosser	Student Athlete
Shelby Reed	Student Athlete
Madelyn McAnnes	Student Athlete
Haylee Clendenin	Student Athlete
Riley Adkins	Student
Madilyn Andricks	Student Athlete
Carly Clarke	Student Athlete
Angelina Kaylor	Student Athlete
Ella Wilson	Student Athlete
Kellie Norris	Student Athlete
Louise Welch	Student Athlete
Abigail Folwer	Student Athlete

Elora Shinn	Student Athlete
Laurel Johnson	Student Athlete
Abigail Johnson	Student Athlete
Shannon Westfall	Student Athlete
Alivia Arbogast	Student Athlete
Maya Rusnak	Student Athlete
Mackenzie Gillispie	Student Athlete
Lacy Bryant	Student Athlete
Cameryn Ciresi	Student Athlete
Riley Ward	Student Athlete
Taylor Kennedy	Student Athlete
Brianna Kendrick	Student Athlete
Ely Osborne	Student – SGA Member
Colton Patrello	Student
Thomas Liddy	Student
Jacob Rose	Student
Sarah Esposito	Student
Breanna Lewis	Student
Alyssa Bays	Student
Bartosz Łosiak	Student
Przemysław Gołek	Student
Maverick Eddy	Student
Sara Quigly	Student – SGA member
Brooklyn Ross	Student
Elizabeth William	Student

James Lyons	Student – SGA Member
Emmanuel Backus	Student – SGA Member
Nathanial George	Student
Noah Vasicek	Student
James Saucett	Student
Kayla Millinau	Student
Meadow Anderson	Student
Miguel Figueroa	Student – SGA Member
Annalissa Hall	Student – SGA Member
Breanna Nichols	Student
Alexander Newman	Student
Olivia Smallwood	Student
Scott Gaines	Student
Kiara Disimone	Student
Sophie Delligatti	Student
Madeline Giaubi	Student
Jason Englestad	Student
Miranda Folmsbee	Student
Colton Daft	Student
Seth West	Student
Salena Dorazio	Student
Tyler Ridgle	Student
Ben Rainwater	Student
David Rhodes II	Student
Isaiah Mohamed	Student

Hannah McNemer	Student
Lucas Kelin	Student
Dylan Henkins	Student
Kaden Statler	Student
Bailey Walker	Student
Caitlyn Underwoon	Student
Gregory Franklin	Student
Timoth Petty	Student
Gerald Hall	Student
Harlie Nelson	Student
Eli Cass	Student
Hannah Carper	Student
Colby Lewis	Student
Audree Alick	Student
Brandi Saville	Student
Brady Price	Student
Josh Reedy	Student
Kiera Carson	Student
Jordan Laick	Student
Cera Grimm	Student
Necaeh Lekanudos	Student
Mari Rose	Alumni
Lauren Dzielski	Alumni
Trevor Gallardo	Student
Kyle Carson	Student

Reece Griffins	Student
Savannah Varner	Student
Megan Kite	Student
Kendra Wright	Student
Alyvia Phillips	Student
Taylor Griffith	Student
Mariah Thompson	Student
Katelyn Stanby	Student
Gracie Farley	Student
Gia Salentio	Student
Cheyenne Parsone	Student
Kayla Day	Student
Olivia Collins	Student
Chelsey Cann	Student
Tina Dalton	Student
Grace Huffman	Student
Sam Dolmer	Student
Alexis Thurogood	Student
Alexis Miller	Student
Megan Vanderuff	Student
Kate Hollar	Student
Jami Crawford	Student
Mady Frashier	Student
Crystal Poe	Student
Jeffery Sheets	Student

Lisa Raom

Student

Brittany Rhodes

Student

